



## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

June 14, 2013

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, 725 – 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20502. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to:

OIRA\_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, D.C. 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential

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persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Rural Utility Service**

*TITLE:* Seismic Safety of New Building Construction, 7 CFR 1792, Subpart C

*OMB CONTROL NUMBER:* 0572-0099

*SUMMARY OF COLLECTION:* Seismic hazards present a serious threat to people and their surroundings. These hazards exist in most of the United States, not just on the West Coast. Unlike hurricanes, times and location of earthquakes cannot be predicted; most earthquakes strike without warning and, if of substantial strength, strike with great destructive forces. To reduce risks to life and property from earthquakes, Congress enacted the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-124, 42 U.S.C. 7701 et seq,) and directed the establishment and maintenance of an effective earthquake reduction program. As a result, the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) was established. The objectives of the NEHRP include the development of technologically and economically feasible design and construction methods to make both new and existing structures earthquake resistant, and the development and promotion of model building codes. 7 CFR part 1792, subpart C, identifies acceptable seismic standards which must be employed in new building construction funded by loans, grants, or guarantees made by the Rural Utility Service (RUS) or the Rural Telephone Bank (RTB) or through lien accommodations or subordinations approved by RUS or RTB.

*NEED AND USE OF THE INFORMATION:* Borrowers and grant recipients must provide to RUS a written acknowledgment from a registered architect or engineer responsible for the design of each applicable building stating that the seismic provisions to 7 CFR part 1792, Subpart C will be used in the design of the building. RUS will use this information to: (1) clarify and inform the applicable borrowers and grant recipients about seismic safety requirements; (2) improve the

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effectiveness of all RUS programs; and (3) reduce the risk to life and property through the use of approved building codes aimed at providing seismic safety.

*DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:* Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit

*NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS:* 192

*FREQUENCY OF RESPONSES:* Reporting: On occasion

*TOTAL BURDEN HOURS:* 144

### **Rural Utilities Service**

*TITLE:* 7 CFR 1778, Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grants

*OMB CONTROL NUMBER:* 0572-0110

*SUMMARY OF COLLECTION:* The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is authorized under Section 306A of the Consolidated Farm and rural Development Act, (7 U.S.C. 1926(a) to provide grants to rural areas and small communities to secure adequate quantities of safe water. There are two levels of grant limits -- \$500,000 and \$150,000. Grants made under this program shall be made for 100 percent of the project's cost, can serve rural areas with population not in excess of 5,000, and household income should not exceed 100 percent of a State's non-metropolitan median household income. Grants under this program may be made to public bodies and private nonprofit corporations serving rural areas.

*NEED AND USE OF THE INFORMATION:* RUS will collect the information from applicants applying for grants under 7 CFR 1778. The information is unique to each borrower and emergency situation. Applicants must demonstrate that there is an imminent emergency or that a decline occurred within 2 years of the date the application was filed with Rural Development.

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*DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:* State, Local or Tribal Government; Not-for-profit institutions

*NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS:* 100

*FREQUENCY OF RESPONSES:* Reporting: On occasion

*TOTAL BURDEN HOURS:* 400

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